MARVEL COMICS

SPIDER-MAN

OCT '96 14

UNTOLD TALES of SPIDER-MAN®

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ONLY 99¢

SCORCHED EARTH!

CLIFFE-VEY

Bitten by a radioactive spider, high school student **Peter Parker** gained the spider's powers, and soon became the costumed crimefighter the entire world would one day come to know as **Spider-Man!** In the early days of his career, when his amazing powers were still new to him, the teenaged Spider-Man struggled to learn about himself and his abilities, while trying to lead a **normal life!** It would **not** be easy...

STAN LEE PROUDLY PRESENTS... **UNTOLD TALES OF SPIDER-MAN!**

ONE THING RIGHT

TINY!

TINY McKEEVER'S BEEN MISSING FROM SCHOOL FOR WEEKS --

-- EVER SINCE THE DAY HE CAME IN WITH A BROKEN ARM, AND WOULDN'T TELL ANY OF US HOW IT HAPPENED.

SO WHAT'S HE DOING WORKING AT A DOWNTOWN MANHATTAN GAS PALACE?

HUH? WHAT?

TINY

UNLEADED

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GAS 08

LEADED 1.39

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WHO *SAID* THAT? ANYBODY *THERE*?

*OF COURSE, TINY DOESN'T KNOW THAT HIS CLASSMATE, **PETER PARKER**, IS THE EVER-AMAZING **SPIDER-MAN** --*

*-- SO IT WAS KIND OF DUMB OF ME TO SHOUT OUT HIS **NAME** LIKE THAT.*

*BUT I WAS **SURPRISED**. I HAVE A SNEAKING SUSPICION I **KNOW** HOW HIS ARM GOT BROKEN, AND WHY HE DISAPPEARED --*

*-- AND IF **THAT'S** GOT ANYTHING TO DO WITH HIM BEING HERE, THEN I --*

Huh? MY ***SPIDER-SENSE***?! BUT ***WHAT*** -- ?

Roar!

BACK FOR ANOTHER ROUND, SPIDER-MAN?

WHAT?! WHO'S -- ?

WHOA, BOY.

YOU RUINED A CUSHY BERTH, SPIDER-MAN -- SENT ME TO JAIL! I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU FOUND ME THIS TIME --

-- BUT NOBODY GETS THE BETTER OF THE SCORCHER TWICE!

FOUND YOU? GEEZ, SCORCH -- I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW YOU WERE *LOST!*

HEY, WATCH IT WITH THE *FLAME-BLASTS*, THERE! IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, I'D THINK YOU WERE TRYING TO *HIT* ME WITH THEM.

FRAM

HONESTLY, LAST I KNEW YOU WERE DOING *TEN-TO-FIFTEEN* UPSTATE --

-- BUT THEN, THE NEW YORK STATE PENAL SYSTEM DOES A PRETTY *LOUSY JOB* OF KEEPING SUPER-VILLAINS INCARCERATED --

-- SO I GUESS I SHOULDN'T BE *TOO* SURPRISED!

WHAK

GO AHEAD, LAUGH!

BUT YOU WON'T LAUGH *THIS* OFF!

THIS IS NUTS! ALL I WAS DOING WAS TAKING A LOOK AT A GAS STATION, FOR PETE'S SAKE --

-- AND ALL OF A SUDDEN IT'S WORLD WAR III! WHERE DID HE COME FROM? WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?

DID SOMEBODY PIN A SIGN TO MY BACK THAT SAYS, "HEY, SUPER-VILLAINS -- FREE SHOT!" ?

FRASH FROOSH FRAM FRASH FROOSH!

BY THE *WAY*, SCORCH --

-- NICE *JETPACK!*

YOU GET THAT FOR 5 RAISIN BRAN *PROOF-OF-PURCHASE SEALS* AND A *DOLLAR-NINETY* --

ENOUGH!

I'VE *HAD IT* WITH PEOPLE LIKE YOU -- ALWAYS *PUSHING*, ALWAYS *HOUNDING* -- AND I'M NOT GOING TO *STAND* FOR IT ANY MORE!

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, BIG FELLA --

Eh--?

-- I THINK YOU AND I HAVE A DIFFERENT TAKE ON JUST WHO'S DOING THE "*HOUNDING*" HERE -- !

OOPS. THAT WAS A MISTAKE.

EE-YOW!

I'D FORGOTTEN HOW HOT HE CAN MAKE THAT ARMOR OF HIS!

TELL YOU WHAT, SCORCHER --

-- LET'S GO BACK TO OUR CORNERS AND WAIT FOR THE NEXT-ROUND BELL, OKAY?

NOT SO FAST, SPIDER-MAN --

-- I'M NOT THROUGH WITH YOU YET!

FRASH

Uh --

Oh, NICE. VERY NICE.

HE'S GOT THE ADVANTAGE ALL OVER ME HERE.

LAST TIME WE FOUGHT HE COULDN'T FLY -- SO WHILE HE HAD THE FLAMETHROWERS, I HAD MANEUVERABILITY.

BUT NOW HE CAN BE ANYWHERE, AND HE CAN BURN THROUGH ANY WEB-LINE I SPIN --

-- SO MY ONLY HOPE --

THWIPP

-- IS TO GET FAR ENOUGH EAST BEFORE --

Oh NO YOU DON'T!

FOOSH

AHH--

MADE IT!

BUT IF WE'D STARTED OUT ONE BLOCK FURTHER AWAY FROM THE **RIVER**, I'D BE SPIDEY **PANCAKES** RIGHT NOW!

SPLASH

COME **OUT**, SPIDER-MAN! COME OUT AND GET WHAT YOU **DESERVE**! COME OUT --

-- OR I'LL BOIL YOU **ALIVE**!

I USE MY SPIDEY-POWERS TO CLING TO A PILING WELL BELOW THE **SURFACE**, AND FIGURE MY STAMINA WILL LAST LONGER THAN HIS **PATIENCE**.

IT TURNS OUT I'M **RIGHT** --

-- BECAUSE BY THE TIME I SURFACE, THE SCORCHER'S NOWHERE TO BE FOUND.

I'LL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT HIM **LATER** --

-- BUT FOR NOW --

-- I WANT TO FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON WITH TINY.

HEY, TINY -- LONG TIME NO SEE!

PETE? PETER PARKER? AN' HERE I THOUGHT YOU NEVER LEFT QUEENS! SAY, YOU LOOK LIKE YOU GOT CAUGHT IN A DOWNPOUR --

-- BUT IT'S BEEN SUNNY ALL DAY! WHAT GIVES?

IT'S A LONG STORY -- YOU WOULDN'T BE INTERESTED. BUT LOOK, TINY -- WHERE'VE YOU BEEN? EVERYBODY'S BEEN WONDERING.

GEEZ, I WAS SO HAPPY TO SEE A FAMILIAR FACE I FORGOT I WAS HOPIN' NOBODY'D FIND ME--

-- AN' I WOULDN'T HAVE TO TELL ANYONE.

IT'S MY DAD, PETE --

-- BUT I THINK YOU GUESSED THAT THE DAY YOU SAW ME WITH THE BLACK EYE, RIGHT?

MY DAD BROKE MY ARM -- HE HITS ME A LOT, TELLS ME I'M NO GOOD, THAT I'M STUPID, THAT I'LL NEVER AMOUNT TO NOTHIN'.

OR ANYWAY, HE DID. I COULDN'T TAKE IT NO MORE, SO I LEFT.

I GOT THIS JOB, AN' IT'S ENOUGH TO PAY FOR A CHEAP APARTMENT --

--AN' THAT'S ALL I REALLY NEED.

BUT -- WHAT ABOUT SCHOOL?

WHAT'S THE POINT? EVEN IF I'M ONLY HALF AS HOPELESS AS MY DAD SAYS, I'M JUST ***WASTING MY TIME*** AT SCHOOL.

BUT TINY -- YOU CAN'T ***THINK*** THAT WAY! YOU NEED TO ***FINISH*** SCHOOL, TO --

HEY!

JUST 'CAUSE YOU HELPED ME WITH MY ***MATH HOMEWORK*** ONE TIME, YOU DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO RUN MY LIFE!

TINY, I --

GET ***OUTTA*** HERE, PETE! I GOT A LOT O' WORK TO DO, AN' MY BOSS DIDN'T HIRE ME TO HAVE ***CONVERSATIONS!***

IT WAS NICE TO SEE YOU, BUT -- JUST GO, OKAY?

I -- Ah --

OKAY, TINY, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU ***WANT***.

*AS I LEAVE, I NOTICE THERE'S A WHOLE SECTION OF THE **GAS STATION FLOOR** THAT'S SCRAPED CLEAN OF **GREASE** AND **DIRT**, AND IT LOOKS ODD --*

*-- BUT I DON'T KNOW **MUCH** ABOUT GAS STATIONS, AND I'M THINKING MORE ABOUT HOW TINY DOESN'T SEEM REALLY **HAPPY** IN THIS NEW LIFE --*

*-- SO I PUT IT OUT OF MY **MIND** --*

-- AND GO ON TO MORE PLEASANT THINGS...

SO WHEN HE STARTED TO DICTATE AN ANTI-SPIDER-MAN EDITORIAL, I KNEW HE WAS OVER HIS EMBARRASSMENT AT CLAIMING MYSTERIO WAS A HERO.

WELL, YOU'VE BEEN JOLLY JONAH'S SECRETARY LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW HE'S HAD A LOT OF PRACTICE GETTING OVER EMBARRASSMENT, BETTY.

HA! YOU SEEM LIKE A QUIET GUY, PETER -- EVEN SHY, SOMETIMES -- BUT YOU'VE GOT A WICKED SENSE OF HUMOR!

REALLY?

I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO TURN IN MY MEMBERSHIP CARD FOR THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE HUMOR IMPAIRED, THEN.

OH, PETER -- I'M SO GLAD YOU SUGGESTED THIS. IT'S SO NICE TO RELAX -- TO EAT OUT IN THE FRESH AIR --

NSON'S

YEAH -- TO THE EXTENT THAT MANHATTAN HAS FRESH --

HEY!

THERE'S A GUY OVER IN THE SHADOWS THERE --

-- I COULD SWEAR I'VE SEEN HIM SEVERAL TIMES TONIGHT, ALMOST AS IF HE'S BEEN FOLLOWING US! BUT THAT'S CRACKERS! WHY WOULD --

Uh -- I'VE GOT TO GO, PETER. I JUST REMEMBERED --

-- THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE GOT TO DO --!

Huh? BETTY, IF THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG -- YOU CAN CONFIDE IN --

IT'S NOTHING, PETER. NOTHING AT ALL! I'LL SEE YOU!

HUH?

FIRST TINY, THEN BETTY --

-- WHY CAN'T ANYTHING EVER BE SIMPLE?

-- THERE I WAS, LIZ, ALONE ON THE THIRTY- YARD LINE, WITH THE WHOLE STANDARD HIGH TEAM BEARING DOWN ON ME!

BUT WAS I WORRIED? HECK NO! I JUST GRABBED THE BALL, AND --

HONESTLY, FLASH -- YOU'RE SO SOLD ON YOURSELF, HAVING A CHEERLEADING SQUAD SEEMS REDUNDANT!

...CHEM CLASS...

...HOME-WORK...

...PEP RALLY...

...BOWLING...

AND IT DOESN'T GET ANY BETTER THE NEXT DAY, WHEN ALL OF A SUDDEN --

-- THE LUNCHROOM GOES QUIET.

AND I SEE WHO IT IS, AND I KNOW WHY.

IT'S JASON IONELLO'S FIRST DAY BACK AT SCHOOL.

AND HE'S WONDERING WHERE TO SIT.

JASON'S FOLKS HAVE KEPT HIM OUT OF SCHOOL SINCE SALLY AVRIL DIED.

AND SURE, EVERYONE KNOWS SALLY MUST HAVE BEEN PUSHING HIM TO DRIVE FASTER, BUT STILL, HE WAS THE ONE DRIVING, AND SHE GOT KILLED...

AND IT'S JUST TOO FRESH...

BUT I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO HAVE TO GO SIT DOWN ALONE -- I DO IT MOST EVERY DAY.

HEY, JASON! PULL UP SOME BENCH, WHY DON'T YOU?

PLENTY OF ROOM HERE.

WHAT?!

FORGET IT, PARKER!

I MAY BE AN OUTCAST NOW, AND MAYBE I DESERVE IT, BUT ONE THING I'M NOT --

-- I'M NOT YOU!

NOT YOU!

KSSH

JASON DIDN'T MEAN THAT, PETER. HE'S JUST UPSET, HE'S NOT THINKING --!

IT'S OKAY, LIZ. I DON'T CARE...

WHAT IS IT, PETER? WHAT'S *WRONG*?

I DON'T *KNOW*, AUNT MAY, IT'S JUST --

-- EVERYTHING SEEMS TO BE GOING *WRONG*, GOING *SOUR* IN SOME WAY --

-- AND IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN *DO*.

MY GOODNESS. NO *WONDER* YOU'RE SO GLOOMY.

WHEN I FEEL LIKE THAT -- AND YES, EVEN AN OLD WOMAN LIKE ME GETS TO FEELING THE WORLD'S SPINNING OUT OF *CONTROL* ON OCCASION --

-- I TRY TO DO JUST *ONE THING* RIGHT, EVEN IF THAT ONE THING IS SOMETHING *SMALL*, LIKE BAKING A BATCH OF COOKIES, OR KNITTING A SCARF --

-- AND THAT ONE THING GOING RIGHT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE THE *REST* OF THE WORLD WILL WORK OUT, TOO.

YOU KNOW, AUNT MAY -- YOU'RE THE *GREATEST*!

Oh, *YOU*!

I'M GOING TO *TRY* SOMETHING LIKE THAT --

-- AND MAYBE IT'LL WORK FOR ME TOO!

WELL, *GOOD LUCK*, DEAR --

-- JUST DON'T FORGET IT'S A *SCHOOL NIGHT*!

BELIEVE ME, AUNT MAY --

" -- SCHOOL IS DEFINITELY IN MY THOUGHTS RIGHT NOW."

I'VE GOT TO TALK TO TINY AGAIN -- TRY TO MAKE HIM REALIZE THAT HE'S NOT HOPELESS.

IF THERE'S A WAY HE CAN COME BACK TO SCHOOL -- REALIZE THAT HIS FATHER'S WORDS ARE JUST AS WRONG AS HIS PUNCHES --

Huh?

THE SCORCHER?

WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?

LOOKS LIKE OUR MEETING YESTERDAY WASN'T AS COINCIDENTAL AS I THOUGHT. I WAS TRYING TO FIND OUT ABOUT TINY --

OPEN

-- HE THOUGHT I WAS INTERESTED IN THE GAS STATION!

AND SOMETHING ABOUT THE STATION --

TEK

THERE! ANOTHER MISERABLE NIGHT --

WHRRR

-- ANOTHER MEASLY TAKE.

AHA!

THAT SECTION OF THE FLOOR I NOTICED EARLIER -- IT'S A HIDDEN ENTRANCE!

THWAP

WELL, I CAN'T LET IT CLOSE --

NOT IF I'M --

ƎNNGHƐ

-- GOING TO FOLLOW HIM IN!"

Huh? WHAT WAS THAT?

BOSS? YOU BACK?

I FOLLOW THE SCORCHER DOWN, UNTIL HE COMES TO AN OPEN AREA -- OLD, DANK AND GRIMY.

IT MUST HAVE BEEN BUILT TO GIVE THE OWNER ACCESS TO THE PIPES AND SUCH BELOW THE STATION --

-- BUT SCORCHIE FOUND A DIFFERENT USE FOR IT --

...ROTTEN, STINKING, HAND-TO-MOUTH EXISTENCE...

LEMME GUESS --

WHAT?

-- YOU'RE RUNNING THE REVERSE OF AN ARSON-FOR-HIRE GAME -- A PROTECTION RACKET, WHERE PEOPLE PAY YOU NOT TO BURN THEIR BUSINESSES!

SPIDER-MAN?

WHAT'D YOU *DO* -- SCARE THE *REAL* OWNER OFF TO GET ACCESS TO THIS PLACE -- OR WAS IT EASIER JUST TO *CRISPY-FRY* HIM?

FROOM

I DO WHAT I *HAVE* TO DO, SPIDER-MAN! WHAT YOU *FORCED* ME INTO! IF YOU HADN'T *WRECKED* MY OLD GIG --

-- YOU'D STILL BE STEALING OTHER PEOPLE'S *PROPERTY* AND *BURNING* ANYONE WHO GOT IN YOUR WAY!

PARDON ME --

-- BUT I'M JUST *NOT* ALL *BROKEN UP* ABOUT IT!

UHH!

KWHANG

WHAT IN THE --?

I THOUGHT THIS WAS A *GREASE-TRAP* OR SOMETHIN'.

BOSS? YOU *DOWN* THERE?

BOSS?

ANYBODY?

HE'S LOST THE ADVANTAGE OF FLIGHT -- IT'S TOO CLOSE IN HERE FOR HIM TO TAKE OFF --

I'VE DREAMED OF HAVING YOU AT MY MERCY, SPIDER-MAN --

-- OF MAKING YOU PAY FOR WHAT YOU DID!

-- BUT IT'S HEATING UP, AND I'LL BE BAKED ALIVE --

PAY? ME? JUST PUT IT ON MY TAB, SCORCH --

THWIPP

-- AND GET IN LINE!

-- IF I DON'T FIND SOME WAY TO SHUT HIM DOWN!

FINE, SPIDER-MAN.

YOU GET YOUR JOLLIES HOUNDING ME -- VICTIMIZING ME LIKE ALL THE OTHERS -- THAT'S JUST FINE!

JUST DON'T GO BEGGING FOR MERCY WHEN YOU'RE GOING UP IN FLAMES --

-- BECAUSE THERE'S NOT GOING TO BE ANY!

GOTTA KEEP HIM TALKING, TILL I CAN FIGURE SOMETHING OUT --

WHY THE PITY PARTY ALL OF A SUDDEN, SCORCH? "HOUNDED" THIS, "VICTIMIZED" THAT --

-- I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST A CROOK FOR HIRE!

MAYBE THAT'S WHAT I AM NOW --

-- BUT IT WASN'T BY CHOICE!

ONCE I HAD A LIFE -- A *FUTURE!* I WAS A RESEARCH CHEMIST -- AND A *GOOD* ONE --

-- UNTIL SOMEONE EMBEZZLED MONEY FROM THE COMPANY I *WORKED* FOR --

"-- AND FRAMED *ME* FOR IT!"

IT WASN'T ME -- IT WAS *HUDAK!* YOU'LL FIND THE PROOF IN THE TRUNK OF HIS *CAR!*

"NO ONE WOULD *BELIEVE* ME -- I HAD TO RUN --

"-- AND I'VE BEEN RUNNING *EVER SINCE!*

"LIVING OUTSIDE THE LAW, I MADE THIS *SUIT* -- AND DID WHAT I *HAD* TO!"

SHRAM

AWWW, AND NOW, WHEN THE MONEY'S NOT STACKED *HIGH* ENOUGH, YOU HAVE BOUTS OF SELF-PITY OVER BEING A *KILLER* AND A *THIEF* --

HOO-BOY!

-- ALL BECAUSE SOMEONE *LIED* ABOUT YOU, AND YOU WERE TOO COWARDLY TO STAND UP FOR THE *TRUTH!*

WHAT? *WHAT?*

NOBODY! TALKS TO ME LIKE THAT! *NOBODY!*

NOW I'LL --

NO! YOU WON'T *KILL* HIM! I WON'T *LET* YOU!

TINY?

SHOULDN'T HAVE STUCK YOUR NOSE INTO WHAT DOESN'T *CONCERN* YOU, KID --

-- NOW I'M GOING TO HAVE TO *SILENCE* YOU!

FSHT

AH!

NO, SCORCHER --

KRCH

-- YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TOUCH HIM!

THE FORCE OF MY BLOW DRIVES HIM *BACK* --

-- AND ONTO A JAGGED PIECE OF *RUBBLE* --

MY *FUEL TANKS!* YOU'VE CRACKED MY *FUEL TANKS!*

IF THEY *IGNITE* --!

QUICK, SCORCHER! I CAN SEAL THEM WITH MY *WEBBING,* AND --

NO! YOU'RE NOT *CAPTURING* ME!

I WON'T GIVE YOU THE *SATISFACTION* --!

WHAT'S *BACK* THERE, TI -- Er, KID? WHAT'S HE *HEADED* FOR?

Uh, WELL -- WE'RE UNDER THE *STATION*, SO THAT WAY --

-- PROBABLY THE *UNDERGROUND TANKS* --!

THAT'S WHAT I *THOUGHT!* COME ON --

-- I'VE GOT TO GET YOU *OUT* OF HERE --

-- BEFORE --

WHAM!

I COULD HAVE SAVED HIM. MAYBE I COULD HAVE.

BUT IN THE END --

-- MY FIRST RESPONSIBILITY IS TO TINY.

LOOK -- TINY, IS IT?--I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP BACK THERE.

AW, I JUST GOT IN THE WAY...

DON'T SELL YOURSELF SHORT -- IF YOU HADN'T DISTRACTED HIM, I'D HAVE BEEN A GONER.

YOU KNOW, I WONDER IF THAT WAS THE SCORCHER'S PROBLEM -- HE WAS SO READY TO SEE THE BAD IN LIFE, HE COULDN'T BELIEVE IN ANYTHING GOOD.

SO HE ACTED LIKE SOMEBODY'S LIES ABOUT HIM WERE TRUE -- AND IF YOU DO THAT, IT DOESN'T MUCH MATTER WHETHER THEY WERE LIES OR NOT --

-- 'CAUSE THEY'RE SURE TRUE NOW.

Huh. I GOTTA THINK ABOUT THAT A LITTLE, SPIDER-MAN.

I MAY HAVE BEEN LOOKING AT A FEW THINGS THE WRONG WAY MYSELF...

THIS DIDN'T GO LIKE I PLANNED IT AT ALL. BUT STILL, IF IT GETS TINY TO COME BACK TO SCHOOL...

...WELL, MAYBE TONIGHT WAS THE "ONE RIGHT THING."

I CAN ONLY HOPE...

NEXT

THE RETURN OF GORDON!
JONAH JAMESON IN TROUBLE!
AND ONLY SPIDEY CAN SAVE HIM!

BE HERE FOR --

the BATTLE for the BUGLE!